

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 170

By Curtiss

A RESOLUTION recognizing Jeff Fisher.

WHEREAS, it is important that the members of this General Assembly should recognize those estimable Tennesseans who have contributed significantly to their profession and their community; and

WHEREAS, one such person is Jeffrey Michael “Jeff” Fisher, former head coach of the National Football League’s (NFL) Tennessee Titans; and

WHEREAS, one of the top defensive minds in the NFL, Coach Fisher built a reputation for his detailed organization and game planning while displaying a strong commitment to winning throughout his entire coaching career; and

WHEREAS, a native of Culver City, California, Coach Fisher was an All-American wide receiver at Taft High School in Woodland Hills, California, and played for the University of Southern California (USC) Trojans between 1977 and 1980; and

WHEREAS, as a defensive back at USC under John Robinson, Jeff Fisher established himself as a versatile and fearless player. His career statistics included five interceptions and 108 tackles and, during the 1978 season, he helped the Trojans capture the national title; he was also a Pacific-10 Conference All-Academic selection in 1980; and

WHEREAS, drafted into the NFL by the Chicago Bears in 1981, Jeff Fisher quickly became a fan favorite for his hard hitting and aggressiveness on the gridiron; he also set the Bears’ club record for punt return yards for a season; and

WHEREAS, after being sidelined by an injury, Coach Fisher embarked on what would become a long and successful career in coaching, serving as a defensive assistant for the

Bears in 1985 before joining the staff of the Philadelphia Eagles as the defensive backs coach in 1986; and

WHEREAS, Jeff's coaching prowess and ability to forge strong relationships with his players were evident early on as he served as the St. Louis Rams' defensive coordinator; he subsequently joined the staff of the San Francisco 49ers as the defensive backs coach; and

WHEREAS, in February of 1994, Coach Fisher joined the then Houston Oilers as an assistant coach and, one year later, was named the fifteenth head coach in the franchise's history; and

WHEREAS, Jeff Fisher stood at the Titans' helm until early 2011 and, at the time of his departure from his position, was the longest-serving active head coach to hold that position with a single team; and

WHEREAS, during his long and storied career with the Titans, Coach Fisher led his teams to 142 regular season wins and five postseason victories, including three in 1999, when the Titans, in spectacular fashion and with the help of one Music City Miracle, played their way into Super Bowl XXXIV, capturing the American Football Conference Championship along the way; and

WHEREAS, in his nearly seventeen seasons as head coach, Jeff Fisher accumulated a winning percentage of 54.2%, but more importantly, his quiet assertiveness, undeniable leadership acumen, and unshakeable faith in his players, fellow coaches, and the Titans' fans stood as unmovable pillars, a foundation on which the franchise could rest and even build upon during tumultuous times; and

WHEREAS, throughout his career as the head coach of the Titans, and throughout his careers as a coach and as a player, Jeff Fisher remained unwavering in his dedication to the pursuit of excellence, and he inspired those around him to aspire to greatness, and those all-too-rare qualities are certainly deserving of the recognition of this body; and

WHEREAS, it is most appropriate that we pause in our deliberations to honor one of Tennessee's most respected sports ambassadors; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE

CONCURRING, that we hereby recognize and commend Jeff Fisher for his many contributions to the State of Tennessee, applaud his singular career as the head coach of the Tennessee Titans, and extend our best wishes for his every future success, unless he's coaching in Indy, Jacksonville, or Houston, of course.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.